

D. Register to Vote

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993, often referred to as “Motor Voter,” is a federal law that requires the MVA to provide its eligible customers the opportunity to apply to register to vote, or update voting information, during a driver’s license or photo identification (ID) card transaction.

E. Insurance Requirements

All motor vehicles registered in Maryland must be insured by a company licensed in Maryland. Vehicle owners must have their vehicles insured for personal injury and property damage liability in amounts required by law. See the MVA website for additional information regarding specific amounts of required insurance.

F. Seat Belt Law

Maryland Motor Vehicle Law requires that the driver and all front seat passengers next to the door wear seat belts. In addition, any individual under the age of 16 must wear a seat belt or be restrained in a child safety seat, regardless of seating position.



G. Child Safety Seats



All children under age eight must ride in an appropriate child safety seat, unless the child is 4’9” or taller, or weighs more than 65 pounds. The restraint must be used in accordance with the child safety seat and vehicle manufacturers’ instructions. Child safety seats include car seats, booster seats or other federally approved child safety devices.

If you are unable to purchase or obtain a child safety seat, you may contact Kids In Safety Seats (KISS), at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at 800-370-SEAT. KISS coordinates loaner programs in various areas of the State that rent car seats or booster seats at a minimal cost to families who cannot afford to purchase them. Seat availability may vary per site.

H. Air Bags

Air bags are important safety devices that provide protection in crashes. For best protection:

- they must be used in combination with the vehicle’s lap and shoulder belt;
- children in a rear-facing car seat should never ride in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- sit as far back from the steering wheel as practical. Try to maintain 10-12 inches from the steering wheel to the chest;
- children, under age 13, should ride buckled up in a rear seat, in an appropriate child safety seat or seat belt;
- pregnant women should place the lap portion of the seat belt under the abdomen as low as possible on the hips and across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt over the rounding of the belly.

I. Braking with Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)

Anti-Lock Braking Systems (ABS) are designed to prevent your wheels from locking up and allow you to steer. Whenever the vehicle’s computer detects that one or more wheels are locking, ABS begins to pump the brakes at a much faster rate to